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Amdt. dated March 30, 2010
Reply to Office Action of September 30, 2009

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) An image processing system for searching images on a network, the image processing system comprising:

(a)   a search engine <u>configured to process images according to a matching algorithm</u>;

(b)   an image analyzer coupled to said search engine, said image analyzer for comparing first and second images provided thereto from said search engine, wherein:

the first image is associated with a first code associated with a first predetermined textual annotation,

the second image is associated with a second code associated with a second predetermined textual annotation,

the first code is descriptive of at least a region of the first image,

the second code is descriptive of at least a region of the second image, and

the image analyzer uses <u>the</u>a matching algorithm for image analysis of the first and second images along with a comparison of the first and second codes in determining if the first and second images are likely to compare favorably, wherein:

the matching algorithm comprises a plurality <u>of</u> factors related to matching that affect how the matching algorithm operates,

the plurality of factors comprise at least one of parameters, characteristics, and/or constraints,

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~~selection or exclusion of an~~ **at least one of the
first and/or second** image is analyzed to identify a subset of the
plurality of factors, and

the matching algorithm is automatically tailored to
either exclude or include the subset of the plurality of factors
**based upon a determination of which factors are
discriminating for at least one of the first and/or second image**.

2.   (Previously presented)   The system of Claim 1 further comprising an
input system coupled to one of said search engine and said image analyzer, said input system
comprising at least one of: a graphical user interface; a facsimile system; a camera system; a
scanner; a network connection; and a video system.

3.   (Previously presented)   The system of Claim 21 wherein the matching
algorithm defines at least one particular region of an image and at least one particular
measurement to make on pixels within each of the at least one particular image region.

4.   (Previously presented)   The system of Claim 3 wherein the matching
algorithm defines at least one measurement to make on one or more pixels in an image region
neighboring the one particular image region.

5.   (Previously presented)   The system of Claim 1 further comprising a
storage device having at least one image stored therein coupled to at least one of said ~~a~~ search
engine and said image analyzer.

6. - 20.   (Canceled)

21.   (Previously presented)   The system of Claim 1 wherein said image
analyzer is provided information specific to a particular application to modify a matching
algorithm used in determining if the first and second images compare favorably.

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22.   (Currently Amended)   An image processing system for processing images stored on a network, the image processing system comprising:

a search engine coupled to the network, **wherein the search engine is configured to process images according to a matching algorithm**;

an image analyzer coupled to said search engine, wherein:

the first image is associated with a first code,

the second image is associated with a second code,

the first code is descriptive of the first image's content and is determined before matching by the image analyzer,

the second code is descriptive of the second image's content and is determined before matching by the image analyzer,

the image analyzer uses a**the** matching algorithm to automatically analyze the first and second images and the first and second codes in determining if the first and second images are likely to compare favorably,

the matching algorithm comprises a plurality **of** factors related to matching that affect how the matching algorithm operates,

the plurality of factors comprise at least one of parameters, characteristics, and/or constraints,

~~selection or exclusion of an~~ **at least one of the first and/or second** image is analyzed to identify a subset of the plurality of factors, and

the matching algorithm is automatically tailored to **either exclude or include** the subset of the plurality of factors **based upon a determination of which factors are discriminating for at least one of the first and/or second image**; and

an input system coupled to at least one of said search engine and said image analyzer, wherein the input system is accessible from the Internet.

23.   (Currently Amended)   The image processing system for processing images stored on the network as recited in claim 22, wherein said image analyzer is provided

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information specific to a particular application to modify **said** a matching algorithm used in determining if the first and second images compare favorably.

24. (Previously presented) The image processing system for processing images stored on the network as recited in claim 22, wherein said input system comprising of at least one of: a graphical user interface; a facsimile system; a camera system; a scanner; a network connection; and a video system.

25. - 36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein:

the second image is part of a plurality of images, which are associated with a plurality of codes,

the image analyzer compares the first code and the plurality of codes to find a subset of the plurality of images that compare favorably, wherein the second image is part of the subset.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 1 wherein at least one of the first and second **codes** predetermined textual annotations is human determined.

39. (Previously presented) The image processing system for processing images stored on the network as recited in claim 22, wherein the first code is textual and derived with manual determination.

40. - 68. (Canceled)

69. (New) A method for searching images on the Internet, the method comprising:

receiving indication of a first image to compare with a second image, wherein the indication is received from the Internet, wherein:

the first image is associated with a first code associated with a first predetermined textual annotation,

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the second image is associated with a second code associated with

a second predetermined textual annotation,

the first code is descriptive of at least a region of the first image,

and

the second code is descriptive of at least a region of the second

image; and

determining which factors are discriminating for at least one of the first and/or

second image through analysis of at least one of the first and/or second image to identify a subset

of a plurality of factors that are discriminating;

automatically tailoring a matching algorithm to either exclude or include the

subset of the plurality of factors, wherein:

the matching algorithm comprises the plurality of factors that

affect how the matching algorithm operates, and

the plurality of factors comprise at least one of parameters,

characteristics, and/or constraints; and

determining if the first and second images compare favorably using the matching

algorithm, wherein the determining comprises:

performing image analysis of the first and second images, and

comparing the first and second codes to see if they match.

70.   (New)   The method for searching images on the Internet as recited in
claim 69, further comprising providing information specific to a particular application to modify
the matching algorithm used in determining if the first and second images compare favorably.

71.   (New)   The method for searching images on the Internet as recited in
claim 69, wherein receiving the indication uses at least one of: a graphical user interface; a
facsimile system; a camera system; a scanner; a network connection; and a video system.

72.   (New)   The method for searching images on the Internet as recited in
claim 69, wherein:

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the second image is part of a plurality of images, which are associated with a plurality of codes,

the matching algorithm compares the first code and the plurality of codes to find a subset of the plurality of images that compare favorably, wherein the second image is part of the subset.

73.   (New)   The method for searching images on the Internet as recited in claim 69, wherein at least one of the first and second codes is human determined.

74.   (New)   The method for searching images on the Internet as recited in claim 69, wherein the first code is textual and derived with manual determination.

75.   (New)   The method for searching images on the Internet as recited in claim 69, wherein at least one of the first and/or second codes is a predetermined textual annotation.

76.   (New)   The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and/or second codes is a predetermined textual annotation.

77.   (New)   The image processing system for processing images stored on the network as recited in claim 22, wherein at least one of the first and/or second codes is a predetermined textual annotation.